

REMARKS

The Office has required restriction to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

1. Claims 5-10, 14, 15, 27-40, and 52-73, drawn to a *Bacillus deramificans* pullulanase having deletions of one to about 300 amino acids from the N-terminus,¹ classified in class 435, subclass 210.
2. Claim 12, drawn to a pullulanase from *Bacillus deramificans* having an A added to the N-terminus of the mature form, classified in class 435, subclass 210.

Applicants respectfully note that the claims of Groups 1 and 2 have been examined together for over six years and have already been searched together, indicating that this does not present a search burden for the Examiner. Nevertheless, solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants hereby elect Group 1, without traverse.

Applicants expressly reserve their right under 35 U.S.C. §121 to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected subject matter during the pendency of this application, or an application claiming priority from this application.

Applicants hereby request examination of the elected subject matter on the merits.

¹ Applicants note that the claims recited in Group 1 include claims directed to deletions of 98, 102, about 100, about 200, or about 300 amino acids, not “one to about 300 amino acids,” as stated in the Office Action.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 07-1048, referencing Docket No. GC396-2. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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